

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9946

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR MARR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S SPEECH, OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB

REF: STATE 076690

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS CALLED ATTENTION OF KEY SWEDISH GOVERNMENTAL AND MEDIA OFFICIALS TO SECRETARY' S SPEECH AT OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB. REACTION HAS THUS FAR BEEN LIMITED, PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT MANY OFFICIALS HAVE EXTENDED EASTER HOLIDAYS THROUGH MAY DAY. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY' S SPEECH HAS RECEIVED SOME PRESS COMMENTARY AND COVERAGE IN CONNECTION HIS ANNUAL FOREIGN POLICY REPORT AND WITH DR. KISSINGER' S ADDRESS ON " THE YEAR OF EUROPE" EMPHASIZING ATTENTION IN TWO SPEECHES TO JAPAN' S ROLE IN WORLD AND TO US ADMINISTRATION' S OPPOSITION TO UNILATERAL WITHDRAWALS OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM EUROPE.

2. MODERATE (CONSERVATIVE) SVENSKA DAGBLADET FOUND THAT THE ROGER' S SPEECH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY CONCERN OVER JAPAN' S INTENTIONS AND NOTED THE SECRETARY' S STATEMENT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED NOT TO UPSET THE DEVELOPING BALANCE IN EUROPE AND ASIA BY UNILATERALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCING ITS STRENGTH, PARTICULARLY NOT AT A TIME WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEGINNING WITH THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS. AN AMERICAN DEPARTURE FROM ASIA COULD LEAD JAPAN TO CONSIDER NEW SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, EVEN A NUCLEAR DEFENSE. THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME A HIGH RANKING AMERICAN OFFICIAL PUBLICLY HAS DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF JAPANESE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS, SVENSKA DAGBLADET COMMENTED.

3. LIBERAL GOTEBORGS HANDELSTIDNING NOTED THAT THE US HAS FIRM PLANS TO MAKE WESTERN EUROPE CARRY A LARGER SHARE OF THE DEFENSE BURDEN. THIS IS NOT A POPULAR MOVE, GHT OBSERVES, SINCE THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE MAKES INCREASES IN DEFENSE BUDGETS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT. BUT IT IS REALIZED THAT THE EASTERN BLOC MAINTAINS MILLIONS OF SOLDERS UNDER ARMS AND CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN ITS ARMAMENTS, DESPITE THE THAW. WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY FOR WESTERN EUROPE TO BALANCE THE SOVIETS MILITARY MIGHT, GHT CONCLUDED.

4. MEDIA REACTIONS ALSO BEING REPORTED IN USIS CORRENT REACTION SERIES.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY COMMENTS ON SPEECH BY GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS AS RECEIVED.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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